





**I'M GOING
TO STOP
LYING TO
MYSELF...**

**I'M GOING
TO STOP
IGNORING
WHO I AM**

**...AND
LIVING
ONLY
INSIDE A
DREAM.**





SO, I
WOULDN'T
AND IF YOU
WANTED TO
TRY GETTING
CLOSER
TO HIM.

WELL,
MASHIRO-
KUN AND I
ARE OVER.

CHW

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



I JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW,
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO SUGAR-COAT
IT FOR ME.

Not
that I think
you would...



...THE
SAME AS
ALWAYS.

NO,
THINGS
ARE...

IF YOU
ARE MAKING
PROGRESS
AND JUST
DON'T WANT
TO TELL ME,
JUST SAY SO.
I WON'T MIND.

OH.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?



...YOU
SURE YOU
WOULDN'T
MIND?

IF SOMETHING
WERE TO HAPPEN
BETWEEN HIM
AND ME...



...INSTEAD
OF SOMEONE
TOTALLY
RANDOM.

BUT, I THINK
I'D PREFER
TO HAVE HIM
GO OUT WITH
YOU...



I GUESS
I WON'T
KNOW UNTIL
IT HAPPENS.



...I'D BE
REALLY
SHOCKED.

AND...

...IF THAT
SOMEONE
HAPPENED TO
BE A GIRL...





HE ACCEPTS
RELATIONSHIPS
IMMEDIATELY
WITHOUT
QUESTIONING
HIS FEELINGS.

HE ONLY
MAKES FRIENDS
WITH PEOPLE ON
THE SURFACE,
WITHOUT
EVEN REALLY
THINKING
ABOUT IT.



IT'S SO
FAKE.



WHENEVER
SOMEONE
TRIES TO
REALLY GET
CLOSE, HE
FREAKS OUT
AND UP
GO THE
WALLS.

TELL ME
ABOUT
IT!

SOMETHING
ABOUT HIS
ATTITUDE
IS JUST SO
HALF-ASSED.



I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
GETTING
JERKED
AROUND.

IT'S
PLACE-
FILLING...

...WITHOUT
HIM.



EXACTLY!

HE HAS
THESE CRAZY
EXPECTATIONS
FOR BOTH
GUYS AND
GIRLS.



THE
LOWEST
OF THE
LOW!!

SO
LOW.

TOTALLY
KING-
WARD!



HEY'S GO
ANYWARD.

Meeting for Victims of Mashiro Ichijo





...I DON'T
SEE ANYTHING
HAPPENING
OTHER THAN
US GETTING
REVENGE.



I GUESS...

...THE SLIMERS
ARE TRUE.
THEY'RE EATING.





AND HIS
MOM'S A
FAMOUS
FLOWER
DESIGNER.

JUST
THAT
HE'S
REALLY
CLOSE
TO HIS
SISTER.

I DON'T KNOW
THAT MUCH
ABOUT ROLL.



I FOUND
OUT THAT
ROLL'S MOM
WOULD BE
APPEARING
ON A RADIO
SHOW...

...SO I
STAYED IN
MY ROOM
TO LISTEN
TO IT.



I FIGURED I'D
LEARN AT LEAST
SOMETHING.



...TAKING A
PEEK INTO YOUR
PRIVATE LIFE,
YOU'RE ALSO A
MOTHER OF TWO,
ARE YOU NOT?



SO, DO
THEY WANT
TO FOLLOW
IN YOUR
FOOT-
STEPS?



YES,
I AM.



NOW THEN,
ARUHASHI-
SAN, WE ALL
KNOW YOU'RE
EXTREMELY
BUSY WITH ALL
YOUR ACTIV-
ITIES, BUT...



JUST LIKE MY
FLOWERS, THEY
WERE RAISED
STRONG SO
THEY COULD
GROW ON
THEIR OWN

MY SON AND
DAUGHTER
ARE VERY
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE.

I RAISED
MY CHILDREN
TO BE
INDIVIDUALS.

WELL...
NOW, THAT'S
A GOOD
QUESTION.



WHETHER
I'M AT WORK
OR HOME,
I BELIEVE
MY ROLE IS
THE SAME.

AND I GAVE
THEM ENOUGH
CARE TO LET
THEM BLOOM
INTO STRONG,
CONFIDENT
PEOPLE.



...AND VERY
STRONG.

HER VOICE WAS
SO CHEERFUL...



HER FLOWERS
FACED THE WORLD
WITH AN AURA OF
CONFIDENCE AND
STRENGTH.



WHEN I HEARD
THAT, I THOUGHT
SHE SOUNDED SO
IMPRESSIVE.



AND I
IMAGINED
WHAT IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
LIKE...

...FOR
SOUL AND
HIS SISTER
TO LEARN
AND GROW
IN THAT
FLOWER-
FILLED
HOUSE.



...SOUL?







IS
THAT
ALL?

HE
REALLY
IS HIS
MOTHER'S
SON.

I
SEE



IT'S BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'VE HAD A NORMAL
CONVERSATION WITH HIM...

YEAH

UM...

I WANTED TO
ASK
SOMETHING
ELSE...

WELL...



ARE...

UM...



ARE THE
RUMORS
ABOUT
YOU AND
KUREHA...

...TRUE?



FUJI-
SHIMA?

I'M SURE I
COULD DATE
HER IF I
WANTED TO.

BUT...





...THERE
ARE ALSO
THOSE
WHO
SIMPLY
GIVE UP
AND FIDE
AWAY.

THERE
ARE
THOSE
STUDENTS
WHO GRADI-
ATE, BUT...



I WAS
SO AFRAID
ALL THE
PROGRESS
YOU'VE
MADE
WOULD
GO TO
WASTE...



NASHIRO-
KUN.

I'M GLAD YOU
DECIDED TO
COME BACK
TO CLASS.





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WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?



ABOUT
EVERYTHING
CLOSE TO
HIM.

I WANT
TO LEARN
SOMETHING
ABOUT HIM.



EVEN
YOU!

YOU'RE THEIR
MOTHER!!
YOU SHOULD
RAISE THEM!

WHAT KIND
OF REMARK
IS THAT!?

YOU CAN'T
EXPECT ME TO
TAKE CARE OF
EVERYTHING!

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
WANTED A
DIVORCE,
REMEMBER!?

A MOTHER
SHOULDN'T
WANT TO
BE AWAY
FROM HER
CHILDREN!

I'VE GOT
A JOB, YOU
KNOW I'M
BUSY!!

WELL, DON'T
EXPECT ME
TO, EITHER!

AI IS ONE
THING, BUT
YOU KNOW
HOW SOU
CAN BE...

YOU
CAN'T JUST
SUDDENLY
EXPECT HER
TO RAISE TWO
CHILDREN!

SOU!!

THEY'D ALL
BE BETTER
OFF WITH-
OUT ME...

LET'S
GO.

SOU

YOU THINK
ALL WOMEN
HAVE AN
AUTOMATIC
INSTINCT YOU
CAN TURN ON
WHenever
IT'S CONVE-
NIENT FOR
YOU!

WHO ARE
YOU TO
MAKE UP
RULES LIKE
THAT!?

SIG-
TER.

THEY
DON'T
WANT
ME.

Nobody
loves me.



SISTER'S
WITH YOU.

SISTER
LOVES YOU
BEST, SOU!

DON'T
SAY SUCH
THINGS!!



SO,
DON'T SAY
THAT.

I NEED
YOU, SOU.

YOU'RE
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING TO
ME!

YOUR
SISTER
LOVES YOU,
SOU.

I LOVE
YOU.















IT WAS COMPLETELY
DIFFERENTLY FROM
WHAT I'D IMAGINED.

SON'S
MOTHER.

SON'S
MOM.



I WAS
WONDERING
IF...YOU
LOVED
FLOWERS.



I BELIEVE
MYSELF...

...AND THINK
ONLY IN
DREAMS.



BUT THEN, I
SUPPOSE I HAVE
A SORT OF ONLY
SEEING THINGS
IN WAYS I CAN
ACCEPT.



*I WONDER IF
I MADE HIM
UNCOMFORTABLE.*



*AND I'M
LEARNING
MORE
ABOUT
MYSELF.*



*...IT
TOLD ME
A LITTLE
MORE
ABOUT
HIM.*

*BUT AT
LEAST...*



*I'M MOVING
FORWARD...
RIGHT?*







...HEY.



...NOTHING.

IT'S NOTHING.



WHAT'S THE MATTER?



I
IT'S SWEAR...
IT'S NOTHING.

IT'S NOT
NOTHING.
YOU'RE CRYING.



...THEY
JUST
STARTED
FALLING.

IT'S
NOTHING,
BUT
STILL...





IT'S JUST, I
SAW MASHIRO-
KUN SMILING.



...I FELT
LIKE I'D DIED
A LITTLE...

WHAT'S THIS
DEAD TREE
DOING HERE?

AFTER WE
BROKE UP...



...AND HE'S
STILL ABLE
TO SMILE.



WHEN I
SAW THAT
SMILE, I
JUST...



WENT
AHEAD...

...AND
HURT
MYSELF...



MASARU-
KUN DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING
WRONG.

I JUST
WENT
AHEAD...



I MADE
MYSELF
FEEL BAD.

I MADE
MYSELF
CRY...



Shinjiro is a member of the Shinjiro family and is the only one who is not a member of the Shinjiro family.
All other members of the Shinjiro family are members of the Shinjiro family and are not members of the Shinjiro family.





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ARE THE RUMORS
ABOUT YOU AND
KUREHA TRUE?



NO.

WE'RE NOT
GOING OUT.

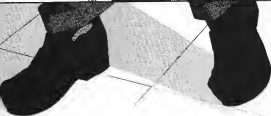
*I'M A
FOOL.*





*I SHOULDN'T HAVE
ASKED IF THEY
WERE GOING OUT.*

*I SHOULD HAVE
ASKED IF HE
LIKED HER...*









...TRUST YOU,
MIZUHASHI.

BE-
SIDES...

I...



YOU
HELPED
ME GET MY
REVENGE
ON HIM...

...FOR
MAKING
ME SRY...



MAYBE
IT'S JUST
BECAUSE
WE'VE BEEN
EATING
LUNCH
TOGETHER.

...DO
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
WEIRD?

...NO...

*That is getting
embarrassing*



I DIDN'T DO
IT JUST SO
YOU COULD
HAVE YOUR
REVENGE.



MASHIRO-
KUN MUST
BE PRETTY
SHOCKED.
I'M SURE...

BUT REALLY
YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO DO
THAT JUST
FOR ME.



I WANTED
TO PUSH
HIM AWAY.

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.

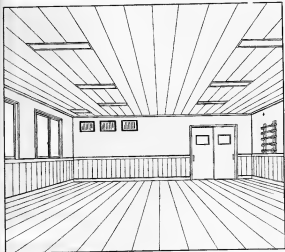


I DON'T
WANT HIM
COMING NEAR
ME WITH HIS
SUPERFICIAL
FEELINGS.

I HAVE NO
INTENTION...

...OF FALLING
FOR THE SAME
THING TWICE.









I SEE.

OH.

!

BUT...
SOME STUFF
CAME UP...

I SAID
I'D COME
TO PRACTICE
REGULARLY...

I'M
SORRY...

YOU'RE HERE
BECAUSE YOU
WANT TO TALK
TO SOMEONE,
RIGHT?

SO...
NOW
WHAT?



...YOU SAW
SOMEBODY YOU
USED TO LIKE,
AND WHO'D SAID
THEY LIKED YOU,
KISS ANOTHER
PERSON. WHAT
WOULD YOU DO?

SEN-
PAL...

IF...



IF WHOEVER
IT WAS CAN
FORGET THEIR
FEELINGS SO
EASILY, YOU'D
BE BETTER
OFF DOING
THE SAME.



YOU SAID
EVERYTHING
IN THE PAST
TENGE.



FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU'RE NOT EVEN SURE IF YOU STILL LIKE THE PERSON OR NOT.

ISN'T THIS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT HOW YOU REALLY FEEL?



IT MAY BE THE RIGHT ANSWER, BUT IT'S NOT SO EASY, IS IT?



DON'T YOU THINK IT'D MAKE YOU STRONGER TO LEARN FROM THIS PAIN?



...OR YOU REALLY WERE IN LOVE WITH THEM, NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE IT RIGHT.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO FIND THE RIGHT PATH. WHETHER YOU WERE JUST BEING PRESSURED INTO A RELATIONSHIP...



FIRST
AND
FORE-
MOST...

...I HAVE TO
FIGURE OUT
EXACTLY WHAT
I'M FEELING
AND WHY.

YEAH...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



I'M GLAD I
ASKED YOU,
SEMPAI.

I KNEW I
COULD COME
TO YOU
YOU'RE SO
MATURE.



THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.



THAT'S WHY
YOU ALWAYS
KNOW WHAT
TO SAY.

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING.
I DON'T
HAVE
ANY REAL
EXPERIENCE.

I'M ONLY
SEVENTEEN.



SEMPA'S SO MODEST.

THANK YOU.


YOU REALLY HELPED ME CALM DOWN.

NO ...!



I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP MORE.

SEMPA...?



HE'S SO MATURE AND RELIABLE. IT FEELS LIKE HE'S ALWAYS RIGHT.

HE ALWAYS PUTS MY MIND AT EASE...







...THEN
I'LL
DECIDE
FOR YOU.

IF YOU
CAN'T
DECIDE...

SO WHAT?

I ALWAYS
THOUGHT...

...YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL THE
WAY YOU ARE.





...I WILL
NEVER
FALL FOR
YOU.

NO
MATTER
WHAT YOU
THINK,
SOUL...

...OR
WHAT YOU
SAY...



I CRUSHED THOSE
FEELINGS FOR GOOD.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS
THAT, IF YOU DON'T HOLD
ONTO THEM, YOU LOSE
THEM FOREVER.



*I SHOULD HAVE
REALIZED...*



*I DIDN'T GIVE
IT A SECOND
THOUGHT.*

*...HOW MUCH
THAT TREE
MEANT TO HER.*



*...THE DEAD TREE
SYMBOLIZED
HER HEART.*

*BUT NOW
I KNOW...*



*EVEN SINCE
WE BROKE UP,
KUREHA KEPT ON
LAUGHING AND
SMILING WITH
HER FRIENDS.*

*SHE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TEARS
IN HER EYES.*





*IT'S ONLY
NATURAL
THAT THEY
FALL FOR
EACH OTHER.*

*SHE'S A FAR
BETTER GIRL
THAN I AM,
AND HE'S A
FAR BETTER
GUY.*



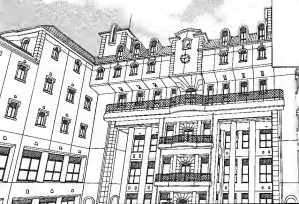
*DON'T YOU
THINK IT'D MAKE
YOU STRONGER
TO LEARN FROM
THIS PAIN?*





*I DON'T EVEN CARE
WHAT MY DREAMS
HAVE TO SAY.*

*I JUST WANT TO
SLEEP, EVEN IF ONLY
FOR A MINUTE.*



...FRANCE'S
CORONATION
WAS REALIZED
ON JULY 17,
1429.

AND SO,
WITH JOAN
OF ARC'S
CAMPAIGN...

THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR
WAS THE CITY OF TROYES
DECLARED BY THE
FRANCE'S FIRST WAR



AND CHARLES VII
WAS OFFICIALLY
CROWNED KING
OF FRANCE.





















I CAN
EXPECT A
SLAP OR
TWO.

I HURT
MASHIRO-
KUN BAD
BY KISSING
YOU.

YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO
OFFER HIM
YOUR CHEEK
TO FIGURE
THAT OUT...



I'M THE
ONE WHO
KISSED
YOU.



AND I'M THE
ONE WHO SAID
WE SHOULD.





...THINKING
OF GOING
HOME.

I'M...



A PART
I'M ALWAYS
FIGHTING.

THERE'S
A PART
OF ME
I STILL
DESPISE.

I THOUGHT
I LOCKED
IT AWAY.

I
THOUGHT
I'D WON.



BUT
MAYBE
THAT
WASN'T
IT.

MAYBE
THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE...

...I HAVE
TO DO.



SO, I'M
GOING BACK
TO WHERE IT
ALL STARTED.

I'M GOING
TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO
OVERCOME
THIS.



BUT...

YOUR HOME...?

.....



YOU'LL
COME
BACK,
RIGHT?



...YOU MAKE
PROGRESS
YOURSELF,
YOU HEAR
ME?

UNTIL
I GET
BACK...







ALL I DO
IS RUN
AWAY.

.....
SHE
SURE IS
BRAVE.



...AND THE
ARMOR.

FROM MY
SISTER...



ABOUT
KUREHA
GOING BACK
HOME?

HEY.
SO, DO
YOU KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THIS?

WHY
NOT?

BUT
I'M NOT
TELLING
YOU.

YEAH,
I DO.

THAT'S
JUST
COMMON
COURTESY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

IT'S NOT MY
PLACE TO
SAY. I'M
NOT GOING
TO GOSSIP
ABOUT HER
PERSONAL
LIFE.

...THAT
YOU SHARE
SECRETS YOU
CAN'T EVEN
TELL OTHER
PEOPLE, IS
THAT IT?

...YOU
AND
KUREHA
ARE SO
CLOSE...

SO, IN
SHORT
...

FINE
...

END
OF
CHAPTER



DON'T WORRY,
IT'S NOT LIKE
SHE QUIT
SCHOOL OR
ANYTHING
BECAUSE
OF YOU.

THERE'S
NOTHING
FOR YOU
TO FEEL
GUILTY
OVER.



DO YOU FEEL
BETTER NOW?



THAT'S
NOT WHY
I ASKED
YOU!!

THEN,
WHY?

IF YOU LIKE
FUJISHIMA SO
MUCH, WHY
DON'T YOU CALL
AND ASK HER
NOT TO LEAVE?





I...

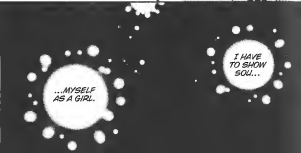
THAT'S
NOT IT,
EITHER!!



*YOU'RE JUST GOING TO
SIT BACK AND WAIT...*

*...FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO
MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?*







WHAT'LL I DO
IF HE SAYS
THAT TO ME?

GROSS-
ES ME
OUT...



WHAT IF HE
SAYS THAT
TO ME?

THAT
LOOKS
HORRIBLE
ON YOU!

HE'S SEEN ME PLENTY
OF TIMES LIKE THIS
IN THE DREAMS...

...BUT IT'S A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT STORY WHEN
IT'S IN REAL LIFE.



EVEN
WORSE...

OR...

WHAT IF HE
DOESN'T SAY
ANYTHING
AT ALL!?

SO?

I JUST...

YOU IDIOT.
IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
HE SAYS.

...HAVE
TO TALK
TO HIM.

ABOUT
EVERYTHING.

HONESTLY...!





...IN.

COME
ON...



IT'S ME,
KUROSAKI.

ICHIJO?



I'M
COMING
IN.

KLATCH

YOU DIDN'T
COME TO
PRACTICE
TODAY, SO
I THOUGHT
I'D HAND YOU
THIS MEMO.

WAIT!!

I CAN
GET IT
FROM
YOU
LATER!!

IT'S A
MESS!!

MY
ROOM!

JUST WAIT!!
PLEASE
DON'T OPEN
THE DOOR,
YET!!

ICHUJO?

UM...

I'M JUST
GOING TO
DROP THIS
OFF---

I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
YOUR
ROOM.

OH,
COME
ON.

CREAK







WHEN HE'S NOT
HAPPY ABOUT
SOMETHING,
HE TAKES HIS
ANGER OUT ON
THINGS, OR
EVEN MOM.

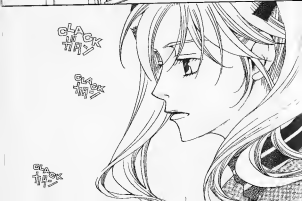
MY DADDY'S
THE TYPE OF
PERSON WHO
HATES IT WHEN
THINGS DON'T
GO HIS WAY.



I'M...

AS FOR
ME...

AND MY MOM
IS THE TYPE
TO STAY OUT
OF HIS WAY
AND SAY
NOTHING, OR
BREAK DOWN
IN TEARS AND
APOLOGIZE.



CLACK
THACK

CLACK
THACK

CLACK
THACK







IT'S
SEMPAI...

I HAVE TO
TELL THE
TRUTH.

I'M SURE
IT'LL BE
OKAY.

I'M...

...A...



I CAN
EXPLAIN.

I
UH...

UH...
SEMPA...



IF I CAN'T
COME UP
WITH A GOOD
REASON FOR
THIS, IT'LL
JUST CAUSE
A HORSE
MISUNDER-
STANDING...

IT'S
NO
GOOD

UH...

WELL...



...GIRL!!



I'M JUST
HALF A
GIRL. THE
OTHER'S
HALF'S A
GUY!!

I SAID
I WAS A
GIRL!!

NO, I
MEAN...



I'M SURE
YOU THINK
THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE,
BUT...
LIM...

I MEAN...
THAT IS,
THE CHRO-
MOZOMES
IN MY TOP
HALF ARE
XY BUT MY
BOTTOM
ONES ARE
XX!!

UHH,
I MEAN
....



...I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO...
TO SEE WHAT
IT'S LIKE AS...
A GIRL...

BUT,
RECENTLY...

WHAT AM I
DOING!? I'M
NOT MAKING
ANY SENSE!!



...APOLO-
GIZING?

WHY ARE
YOU...



.....

.....



I'M
SORRY...

I'm sorry
that...



BECAUSE YOU
HAD TO SEE
SOMETHING
SO WEIRD...

WELL...



...WHAT
YOU
THINK?

OR IS
THAT...

WHOEVER
SAID THAT
TO YOU?







*I WANT TO
SIT DOWN
AND TALK
WITH YOU.*

*COME TO
MY ROOM.*



SO, I
WEAR THIS
SOMETIMES.

...I HATE
TO ADMIT IT,
BUT I THINK
I CAN START
TO ACCEPT
WHO I AM.

WHEN I LOOK
AT MYSELF IN
THE MIRROR,
LATELY...

THIS
IS THE
FIRST
TIME
I'VE...

...EVER
SHOWN
ANYONE.

ER,
I MEAN,
ANYONE'S
SEEN IT.

...CAN
WE JUST
ACT THE
SAME...

FROM
NOW
ON...

...AS
WE
HAVE
SO
FAR?

I
KNOW.

IF YOU
COULD
NOT TELL
ANYBODY
ABOUT
THIS...

BUT, UM
SENPAI...







GO
HIDE.

WE CAN'T
HAVE HIM
SEEING
YOU LIKE
THAT,
RIGHT?

I'LL
GO OUT
THERE AND
SMOOTH
THINGS
OVER.



O...
KAY...

I DID THIS
TO SHOW
SOU IN
THE FIRST
PLACE!

WHY'D THIS
HAVE TO
HAPPEN!?



HEY,
ICHIJO-



IS
THAT
SO...



ICHJO
ISN'T FEELING
WELL, SO HE'S
RESTING NOW.
HE SHOULDN'T
BE BOTHERED.

I WAS
VISITING
HIM.



I
GET
IT.





WHERE'S MOM?

YEAH.

WERE YOU ASLEEP?

YOU CAME HOME?

OH.

...KURE-HA.



SHE SHOULD BE HOME SOON, THOUGH.

OH...
UH...

SHE'S AT WORK.

SHE WORKS AT THE FLOWER SHOP ACROSS FROM THE STATION.



KUREHA

KUREHA!
YOU'RE BACK?

DON'T WORRY,
I'LL DO IT.

IT'S OVER THERE IN THE... UH, WHICH WAS IT, AGAIN...?

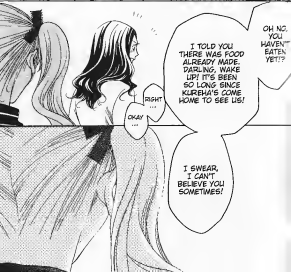
SHE SAID THERE WAS STEW TO HEAT UP IF SHE WAS LATE.



HONEY, HAVE
YOU GROWN
ON ME?

WELCOME
BACK,
KUREHA!

I'M...
HOME...



OH NO
YOU
HAVEN'T
EATEN
YET!?

I TOLD YOU
THERE WAS FOOD
ALREADY MADE.
DARLING, WAKE
UP! IT'S BEEN
SO LONG SINCE
KUREHA'S COME
HOME TO SEE US!

RIGHT
...

OKAY
...

I SWEAR,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
SOMETIMES!



MY DAD WAS
ALWAYS SO
DOMINEERING
AND TOUGH ON
EVERYONE.

AND I GUESS
MY MOM GOT
A JOB ABOUT
TWO YEARS
AGO.

BUT NOW HE
HAS A SUPER-
EASY JOB, SO
HE COMES HOME
EARLY AND JUST
LAZES ABOUT
ALL DAY.

HER SMILE
WAS SO
BRIGHT, SHE
SEEMED
LIKE A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PERSON...



...TO
THIS
HOUSE?

WHAT
HAD
HAPPENED...







CAN SHE
REALLY
LET GO
OF ALL
THAT SO
EASILY?

HE
ALWAYS
USED TO
TREAT
HER SO
HORRIBLY.



WHAT
ABOUT
ME?

SHOULD I JUST LET
WHAT HAPPENED TO
ME BE NOTHING MORE
THAN A MEMORY?

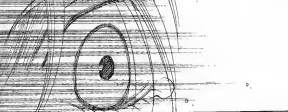
WHY DOESN'T
MY MOM DO
ANYTHING?

SHE COULD
PUT DAD
THROUGH
ALL KINDS
OF HELL,
NOW.



*HOW CAN I
JUST FORGET
THAT!?*







"ESPECIALLY
PATHETIC?"

BUT WHAT
DOES THAT
EVEN MEAN?
"SPECIAL?"

THE OTHER
DAY, YOU
SAID I WAS
"SPECIAL."



...BECAUSE I
WANTED MASHIRO-
KUN TO THINK I
WAS STRONG.

I SAID
THAT...



...DO I EVER
REALLY WANT
TO GROW UP?

BUT DEEP
DOWN...

DO I JUST WANT TO STAY
A HURT LITTLE GIRL, SO NO
MATTER HOW I ACT OR WHAT
I DO, I'LL BE FORGIVEN?





IF THERE'S
SOMETHING THAT
REALLY UPSETS
YOU, CALL ME.

YOU'LL COME
BACK, RIGHT?



BUT...

MIZUHASHI
SAID THAT...

...AND JUST THROW
IT AWAY FOREVER.

IT MIGHT BE BETTER
TO TAKE THIS ROTTING,
DIRTY THING...





I ALREADY
SAID I'M
SORRY.

I KNOW
IT WAS
WRONG...

...TO ASK
YOU TO
COME AND
THEN TELL
YOU TO GO.



LOOK,
I DON'T
CARE
ANYMORE.

NO,
I WILL
NOT
DROP
IT!



I'M APOLO-
GIZING!!

WHY DO
YOU HAVE
TO BE LIKE
THAT?



BUT SOME
STUFF CAME
UP, AND I HAD
NO CHOICE.

YEAH, YEAH,
STUFF CAME
UP. I KNOW
ALREADY, SO
JUST DROP IT.

CAN
WE TRY
THIS
AGAIN
...?

SO,
PLEASE...



NO MORE
OF THESE
LITTLE
"TALKS".

I
REALLY
DON'T
CARE.

I
KNOW.



WOULD YOU
QUIT TAGGING
ALONG BEHIND
ME? YOU'RE
GETTING ON
MY NERVES.



SOUL
DIDN'T
EVEN
WANT TO
LISTEN
TO ME,
ANY-
MORE.

Ugh...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE JUST
SAID ALL
THAT
WITH A
SMILE...

IF I TALKED WITH
KUROBAKI-SEMPAI,
HE'D LISTEN.

SO, WHY
WON'T SOUL?





HE SPENT SO MUCH
TIME WITH KUREHA.



BUT HE WON'T
TALK TO ME.



IS IT BECAUSE HE
JUST DOESN'T
LIKE ME?

WAS IT
REALLY...

COME DOWN
TO THAT?



Chateau Restaurant.
du Marchand

SO...

HOW'S
SCHOOL BEEN,
KOICHIRO?

DON'T JUST
TELL ME
ABOUT YOUR
GRADES.

I'VE ALREADY
LOOKED OVER
YOUR REPORT
CARD, SO I
KNOW YOU'RE
DOING WELL.

I'M NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I
SAY...











ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

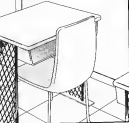
I DON'T
KNOW

....I HATE
TO ADMIT
IT, BUT I
THINK I
CAN START
TO ACCEPT
WHO I AM.

WHEN I
LOOK AT
MYSELF
IN THE
MIRROR,
LATELY...



KOICHIRO-
SAN?





...YOU'RE
SEEING ME
DRESSED
AS A GUY,
AGAIN.

AFTER YOU
SAW ME
DRESSED
AS A GIRL...

I GOTTA SAY...
THIS FEELS
SORTA WEIRD.



...AND RE-
EVALUATING
MY FEELINGS.

I'VE BEEN
TAKING YOUR
ADVICE,
GEMPAL...



YEAH...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

THE DOG*
IS THE SAME
FOR BOTH
GENDERS,
REMEMBER?

*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES



.....



...MAYBE ISN'T
SOMEONE I
EVER REALLY
COULD LIKE.

I REALIZED
THE PERSON
I THOUGHT
I LIKED...



AND EVERY TIME
I TALK TO HIM, MY
NERVES FEEL LIKE
THEY'RE BEING
SHREDDED. I'M
ALWAYS SO UPSET
AFTERWARDS.

I MEAN...
WE CAN'T
EVEN HAVE A
CONVERSATION.



I THINK...
IT WAS JUST
HIS WORDS AND
HIS ACTIONS
THAT MADE MY
HEART RACE.

...AND DID
THE KINDS
OF THINGS
GUYS
DO WITH
GIRLS...

HE WAS
NICE TO
ME...

I REALIZED
HE WAS JUST
THE FIRST
PERSON TO
TREAT ME
LIKE A GIRL.

BECAUSE
THERE'D NEVER
BEEN ANYONE
ELSE WHO
TREATED ME
LIKE THAT.

I ONLY
THOUGHT
THAT MEANT I
LIKED HIM...



IS THERE
SOMEBODY
ELSE WHO
MAKES YOU
FEEL THAT
WAY?

SO,
NOW
WHAT?

MAYBE.



I
COULD'VE
SWORN...

YEAH?



...YOU
WERE
INVITING
ME TO.



...I ALMOST
THOUGHT
THAT YOU
WANTED ME
TO DO THE
SAME THINGS
HE'D DONE
WITH YOU.

BRINGING
IT UP WHEN
WE'RE
ALONE, AND
GIVING
ME THAT
OPENING...



...YOU WERE
TRYING TO
SEE WHAT
I'D DO.



AND BY
SAYING
THAT...



ESCORT
YOU
AROUND?

LIKE OPEN
THE CAR
DOOR FOR
YOU?

HE DID
THINGS
THAT GUYS
DO WITH
GIRLS, YOU
SAID?

N...
NO.

NOTHING
THAT
GENTLE-
MANLY.



TH...
THAT'S...





...NO,
WAIT...

Y...
YEAH...

WH...

HE
KISSED
YOU?

WELL,
THEN?





...I WAS
JUST
KIDDING.



COME ON,
PLEASE
DON'T
SCARE
ME LIKE
THAT.

OF ...RIGHT.
COURSE...
HEH HEH.

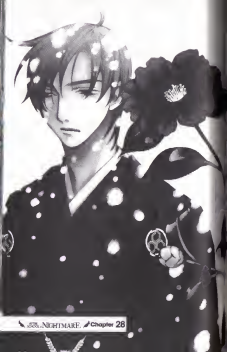


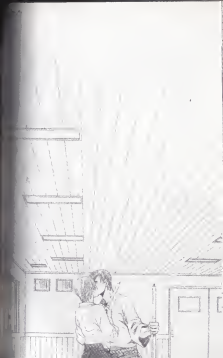
.....



KUROSAKI-
SEMPAI,
YOU'RE SO-









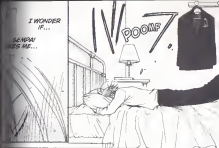
NOT EVEN
HOW I GOT
BACK HERE.

I WAS SO
SHOCKED,
I DON'T
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER THAT.



I WONDER
IF...

SENDAI
KISS ME...



ACTUALLY...

I DON'T
REMEMBER...



I WAS IN
SUCH A DAZE,
I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
LOOKING AT
HIS FACE.



I KNOW
BT I'M
TURNING
RED
AS A
BEET!



IF HE DIDN'T
LIKE ME HE
WOULDN'T
HAVE KISSED
ME, RIGHT?

B-BUT...

HOW DID HE LOOK
AFTERWARDS...?





HE'S
AOND
AND RE-
LIABLE.

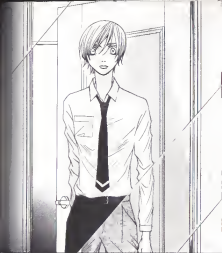


HE'S
COMPOSED
AND EASY TO
TALK TO, AND
NATURE...

...I'M SURE
I'D LIKE
KURUMAD-
SENPAI
BETTER
THAN YOU.

BUT... BUT JUST
SUSPECTING
HE WENT OUT.







HOW CAN
I THINK
SOMETHING
SO SELFISH?



I COULD'VE
SWORN YOU
WERE
INVITING
ME TO.



IT'S TRUE. I WAS
ACTING EXACTLY
LIKE THAT'S WHAT
I WANTED.

SEMPAI WAS
ONLY BEING
KIND WHEN HE
DIDN'T LET IT
GO UNNOTICED.

I SHOULD BE
ASHAMED.

HOW LOW
OF ME.



WHO'M I
KIDDING?



IF I CAN'T
BE A KNIGHT,
I MAY AS
WELL BE A
PRINCESS.

I DON'T CARE
WHO IT IS,
AS LONG AS
SOMEONE
TREATS ME
HELL.

I WANT TO BE
PRAISED AND
PAMPERED BY
ANYONE WHO'S
WILLING.

GUESS I
FIGURED
OUT WHAT'S THE
KIND OF GIRL
I WANT TO BE.



I'M...

...A
DESPICABLE
GIRL.

IF I'M A GUY, I'M A
HYPOCRITICAL PRINCE.

AND IF I'M A GIRL,
I'M A SPOILED
PRINCESS?

EITHER
WAY...

...I'M
JUST
BAD.





ALREADY...

IT'S ALREADY
THURSDAY AND
SHE'S STILL
NOT BACK.



IF SHE
DOESN'T
COME
BACK...



IT LETS
YOU ESCAPE
ALL YOUR OWN
PROBLEMS...

IT'S
SO MUCH
EASIER
TO WORRY
ABOUT
OTHER
PEOPLE.

...SO YOU
PROBABLY
CONTACTED
HER, ALREADY.

HE SAID I
SHOULDN'T
WORRY ..

WE SAW YOUR
SISTER AT THE
SHIRASAGI
FESTIVAL* THE
OTHER DAY!

Oh,
actually
yes...

A-SSA,
RIGHT?

SHE'S SO
PRETTY!



TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

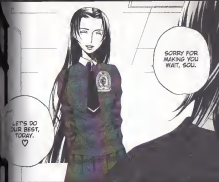
SARRASAGI FESTIVAL?

WENT THAT...









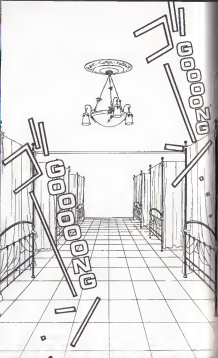
LET'S DO
OUR BEST,
TODAY.

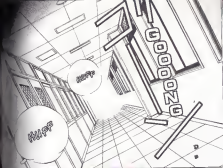


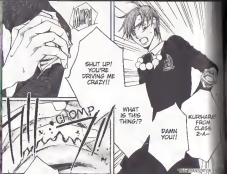
SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WAIT, SOU.



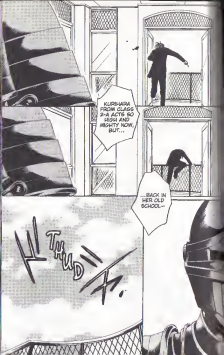
DO OUR
BEST AT
WHAT...?











KUDOHARA FROM CLASS
2-A ACTS SO
HIGH AND
RECHTY NOW,
BUT...

...BACK IN
HER OLD
SCHOOL—

THUD!!
A.





HELLO.



AND WHY
YOU HAVE NO
INTEREST IN
GRADUATING.

I FINALLY
UNDER-
STAND
WHY YOU
DON'T
WANT THE
KEY.

...I
WANTED
TO TALK,
SO I
CAME TO
YOU.

TODAY
...



YOU NEVER
WERE. YOU
NEVER COULD.

IT'S BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT
A STUDENT
HERE.

YOU SLUCK
INTO THIS
CLASS TO
MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T
GRADUATE.

CHIRAGAO'S
NOT FAR
FROM HERE.

IF YOU JUST
WAS A SCHOOL
UNIFORM,
NOBODY'D
THINK TWICE
AT SEEING YOU
AROUND.

DON'T WANT TO
BE SEPARATED
FROM HIM?

BECAUSE
YOU...





SHE LOVED
ACTING LIKE
SHE WAS
THIS DOING
HOUSEWIFE AND
MOTHER, AND
TALKED ABOUT
US LIKE SHE
WAS ALWAYS
THERE...IT'S
LAUGHABLE,
REALLY.

OUR PARENTS
DIVORCED AND
I WENT WITH
MY DAD. SOU
WENT TO LIVE
WITH OUR
MOM.

...SOU AND
I WERE
SEPARATED

HERE, THIS
IS MY NEW
ADDRESS.
YOU CAN
COME SEE
ME ANY
TIME AND
I'LL CALL
YOU.
OKAY?

BUT,
IT'S OKAY.
WE LIVE IN
DIFFERENT
HOUSES,
BUT IT'S
ONLY HALF
AN HOUR
BY BUS.

I'M
SORRY.

I TOLD THEM
I DON'T LIKE
BEING AWAY
FROM YOU. I
TRIED MY BEST,
BUT IT'S NO
USE...

I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT IT
WOULDN'T BE
ENOUGH.

IT'LL BE
OKAY.

I WAS
A FOOL.

YOU'LL ALWAYS
BE BY MY SIDE.
WE'LL BE
TOGETHER
EVEN WHEN
WE'RE ASLEEP.
I'LL ALWAYS
THINK OF YOU,
SOU, WHEN I
LOOK AT
THIS BEAR.

I'LL THINK
OF THE
BEAR AND
YOU.



TRYING TO
REPLACE
HIM WITH
SOME-
THING...

...DIDN'T
HELP
ANYTHING
AT ALL.

NOT EVEN THE
HOUSEKEEPER
GAVE HIM
ATTENTION.

SHE'D COME
TO CLEAN
EVERY DAY,
AND HURRY
UP TO HER
OWN HOME.

SOU
WAS ALONE
WITH OUR
MOTHER. MORE
SPECIFICALLY,
HE WAS
ALWAYS
ALONE.

THAT WOMAN
THOUGHT ONLY
ABOUT HER
WORK, SO SHE
WAS HARDLY
EVER HOME.



Please leave
a message
after the
bep.

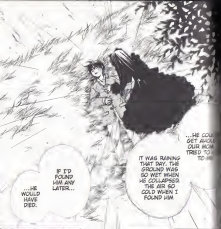
—after the
bep.



SOU CAUGHT A
BAD COLD THAT
TURNED INTO
PNEUMONIA.

AND
EVEN
THEN...





...HE COULD
GET AWAY.
OUR MOM
TRIED TO
TO-HO

IT WAS RAINING
THAT DAY. THE
GROUND WAS
SO WET WHEN
HE COLLAPSED.
THE AIR SO
COLD WHEN I
FOUND HIM.

IF I'D
FOUND
HIM ANY
LATER...

...HE
WOULD
HAVE
DIED.



I COULD
NEVER
LEAVE HIM
AGAIN.

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LEFT
HIM.

I KNEW
IT THEN.
CLEAR
AS DAY.



I DECIDED I
WOULD BE WITH
HIM FOREVER.

NO MATTER
WHAT I HAD TO
DO TO MAKE
IT HAPPEN.

Sketch Excavation

That it's a rough sketch I did when Pharaoh requested an illustration for the final stage of Princess Mokona is a shame.





THEN
WHY...

DO YOU
KEEP THE
FORM OF A
CHILD?



PERHAPS
BECAUSE
BACK THEN...

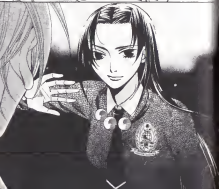
...I WAS
STILL
BEAUTIFUL...

WHY,
INDEED.



AFTER
ALL, AS A
CHILD...

...I'D NEVER
DREAMED OF THE
THINGS THAT
WOULD HAPPEN
BETWEEN US.





...WAS
WITH
ME.

SOUL'S
FIRST
TWE...



WE
HAD NO
CHOICE.

YOU HAD
NO CHOICE.
AND I
WAS THE
ONLY ONE
HE COULD
LOVE.

YOU'RE
HIS
SISTER?

YES!



JUST LIKE
WHEN HE
TRIED TO
FALL FOR
YOU.

HE
WANTED
TO STOP

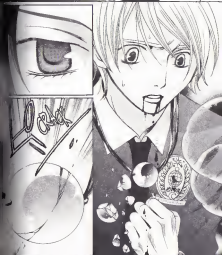
THE REASON
HE KEPT GOING
FROM ONE GIRL
TO THE NEXT WAS
TO SEVER HIS
RELATIONSHIP
WITH ME.

BUT
YOU JUST
BETRAYED
HIM, IN
THE END.

ALL HE
COULD
DO WAS
RETURN
TO ME.



HOOR ! ! O/HO
T=IP T=IP
HO
O/P
T=IP
T=IP





I GUESS THIS
WAS A LITTLE
TOO MUCH
FOR YOU.



FROM NOW ON
SOU AND I ARE
GOING TO LIVE
TOGETHER, JUST
THE TWO OF US.

YOU
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
WRONG.

THERE WAS
NO OTHER
WAY IT
COULD HAVE
HAPPENED.



FORGET
ALL OF
THIS

GO BACK TO
YOUR ROOM
AND SLEEP.



MASHIRO-
KUN!



UNTIL
NEXT
WEEK
MASHIRO-
KUN

GOOD
WORK.



WHE!

MASHIRO-
KUN!!



WHY'D YOU
TALK TO
ICHIJO?

YOU DIDN'T
NEED TO
TELL HIM
ALL THAT!



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO SAID
WE SHOULD
KEEP IT A
SECRET!

NOBODY
ELSE
KNEW.

WASHERO
ICHIJO'S...

...GOING
TO GET
RID
OF ME!



DON'T
GET MY
SOUL...

IF I LOST
YOUR SOUL,
I'D DIE...



...HAVE
YOU
STARTED
LYING
TO ME?

WHY...

SOLI!

...I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
CHILD ABUSE
MORE!!

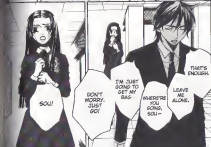
I
THOUGHT
I TOLD
YOU...



I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU!
GENT TAKE
THIS!

I HAVE TO
MAKE SURE
HE GOES
AWAY.

YOU CAN'T DO
THAT. IF YOU DO,
I MAY AS WELL
NOT EVEN BE
HERE!



SOLI!

DON'T
WORRY.
JUST
GO!

I'M JUST
GOING TO
GET MY
BAG.

WHERE'RE
YOU
GOING,
SOLI?

LEAVE
ME
ALONE.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.

SOU!!







...IT MAKES
ME SICK.

TO PUT IT
BLUNTLY...



I'LL NEVER
ACCEPT IT.



I KNOW I
DON'T HAVE
ANY RIGHT
TO YELL AT
YOU.

...WHAT
OTHER
PEOPLE DO,
NO MATTER
WHAT, EVEN
IF IT'S
WRONG.

I KNOW IT'S
NONE OF MY
BUSINESS...



AND I
KNOW
THAT...

...IF I
FORCE MY
FEELINGS
ON YOU...

...YOU'LL
JUST
HATE ME
ALL OVER
AGAIN.

EVEN
IF I'M
HATED...

...AND
NOBODY
ACCEPTS ME,
AND I'M ALL
ALONE...

BUT I
DON'T CARE
ANYMORE!!

...I
DON'T
CARE!!





AND
KUREHA...

I DON'T
WANT TO SAY
THAT I'M GLAD
YOU GUYS
GO SO WELL
TOGETHER!!

I DON'T WANT
TO FORGIVE
WHAT HAPPENED
BETWEEN YOU
AND YOUR SISTER!
I CAN'T DO IT!

BUT
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH!

I CAN'T
TAKE IT ANY
MORE!!

I DON'T EVEN
KNOW! THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER SAID
ANYTHING
LIKE THIS!!

ICHIJO, WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY?

...WANT
YOU...

..TO BE LIKE
THAT WITH
ANYBODY,
GOD!

I DON'T
LIKE IT. I
DON'T...





YOU CAN'T GET
OFF BEING A GIRL

YOUR MIND IS NOT
SCATTERED?

YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE
YOU CAN'T JUST STAY
AS YOU ARE

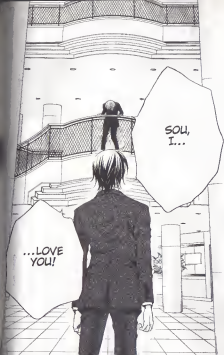


I...

I
HATE
IT.

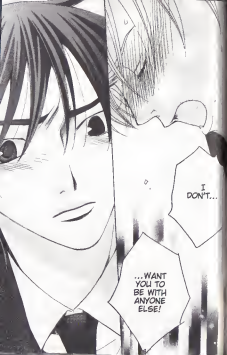


BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
AND GO FOR IT



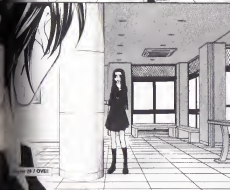
...LOVE
YOU!

SOU,
I...



I
DON'T...

...WANT
YOU TO
BE WITH
ANYONE
ELSE!



Kuneha's
true power
is finally
unlocked...



...but who
holds
the key?



In The Next Volume of
AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Translator's Notes:

Pg. 32 – *Aoyama and Kakimoto*

More color-names.

青山 The first symbol “ao” means “blue.”

柿本 The first symbol “kaki” means “persimmon” an orange-red.

Pg. 132 – *dogi*

The uniform used in dojo training activities like karate and kendo. They're white, and made of thick, heavy material.



Pg. 149 – *Shirasagi*

This high school's name means white heron, and is symbolic because our characters' own school is “Kokoku High” or “great bird”. Having two local high schools named after birds is surely no coincidence.

Pg. 150 – *Hiroko*

Sou's mother also participates in the color-name theme. The “hi” of “Hiroko” denotes a scarlet red color. Coincidentally (or not) this is the exact opposite of her children's blue-oriented names.

Pg. 156 – *Yamabuki*

山吹 This is the name of a variety of yellow rose.

Pg. 157 – *Kurihara*

栗原 The first symbol “kuri” means “chestnut” and indicates a reddish brown color.



AFTER SCHOOL

NIGHTMARE

7

SETONA MIZUSHIRO

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

THIS DREAM DRAWS BLOOD...

Alliances form as friendships fade, and soon the nightmarish dream-world becomes preferable to the turmoil in Mashiro's everyday life. With Kureha spurning him and Sou ignoring him, Mashiro has no choice but to seek the answers he needs from a most unlikely source...

FROM THE CREATOR OF "X-DAY"!

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Table of contents

Chapter 25.....5

Chapter 26.....45

Chapter 27.....95

Chapter 28.....139

AFTER SCHOOL NIGHTMARE

Our Story So Far

Moshio Ichijo is a high school student whose body is half female, and half male. One day, he's called down to a secret infirmary to participate in a "special class" he needs to graduate. He learns from another student, Kureha, that each person takes on their true form in this class. When each student reaches their personal goal, their most heart-felt dream will come true. Moshio decides to use this class to become a true male.

But when another dreamer – a merciless knight – exposes his body's secret and Kureha's tragic past, Moshio vows to protect the weaker dreamers.

Who is the real person behind the knight? While trying to identify the real people behind the facades, Moshio is accosted by Sou, a male student he doesn't much like. Sou tells him "you're a girl" and then forces a kiss upon him. Wondering whether Sou could be another dreamer, maybe even the knight, Moshio becomes obsessed with Sou.

But when Sou's sister, Ai, reveals that Sou is the knight, Moshio is stunned. Vowing that he'll never forgive Sou, Moshio tries to free himself from his confused feelings by spending a tender night with Kureha.

Then Kureha tells him she wants to break up, now that she sees what is really in his heart. Giving in to despair, Moshio stops coming to the class and resolves in his heart that he will merely be who he can be. But what will happen next...?





After the wedding ceremony,
the bride and groom
are seated at the head of the
table.